

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 /058 W
-----052696 271319Z /72

R 271138Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1662

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, CZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EMBASSY RAISES PAN AM DIFFICULTIES WITH MFA

REFS A. STATE 159618(NOTAL), B. PRAGUE 1605(NOTAL), C. PRAGUE 1595
(NOTAL), D. PRAGUE 1424(NOTAL) E. PRAGUE 1320(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE RECENT EVENTS ARE PART
OF DELIBERATE HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAN AM. EMBOFFS
RAISED PROBLEMS WITH MFA'S ZANTOVSKY, WHO OFFERED SOME
SYMPATHY BUT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE IN REPLY. COMMENT: EMBASSY
BELIEVES RECIRPOCITY ONLY BASIS FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVED GOC
TREATMENT OF PAN AM AND SUPPORTS CAB DENIAL OF SOME OR
ALL CSA EXTRA SECTION REQUESTS. IN LONGER TERM, EMBASSY BELIEVES
WE SHOULD MAINTAIN OPTION TO CONTINUE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT.
ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE IF MORE INFO ON JUNE 20 AIRPORT CLOSURE
PROBLEM NEEDED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO PARA THREE REF A, EMBASSY CANNOT SAY FOR
CERTAIN WHAT GOC MOTIVES WERE FOR SERIES OF PROBLEMS WHICH
HAVE LATELY ARISEN HERE TO PAN AM'S DETRIMENT.
WE FEEL REASONABLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THESE EVENTS ARE THE
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RESULTS OF ISOLATED DECISIONS TAKEN WITHOUT FULL REGARD FOR
IMPACT THEY WOULD HAVE ON PAN AM. WE BELIEVE MIN. FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OFFICIALS WERE TRUTHFUL IN TELLING US, EACH TIME WE RAISED THESE
MATTERS WITH THEM (REF B, C AND D), THAT THEY HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE
OF THEM. FURTHER, WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THESE STEPS ARE
NOT PART OF A DELIBERATE HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN AIMED AT SOFTENING
UP PAN AM FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW OR EXTENDED

AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT(OATA).

3. ON JUNE 26, ADCM AND E/C CO5NSELOR RAISED THESE PROBLEMS

WITH ZANTOVSKY AND RYCHLIK OF MFA'S SIXTH DEPARTMENT. EMBOFFS NOTED THAT WASHINGTON PERCEPTION OF THESE UNWELCOME EVENTS WAS SUCH THAT CONTINUATION OF THE ATA HAD BECOME UNCERTAIN WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY IT WAS ALMOST A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. THEY SAID THAT CAB IS NOW RECONSIDERING CSA REQUEST FOR EXTRA SECTION FLIGHTS (PARA FOUR REF A) BECAUSE OF RECENT GOC ACTIONS. EMBOFFS STRESSED THAT CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THESE MEASURES COULD MEAN THE END OF THE ATA, ONE OF THE FEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT LINKING THE GOC AND USG.

4. ZANTOVSKY CLEARLY GRASPED THE POINT BUT COULD OFFER LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN REPLY. REGARDING THE HOUSING PROBLEM (REF C), HE SAID THAT HE DOES NOT CONTROL SPRAVA SLUZEB BUT WILL URGE THEM TO LOOK HARDER FOR ALTERNATE HOUSING FOR PAN AM REP HAY, SINCE 133 PERCENT RENT HIKE ON PRESENT HOUSE IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PAN AM. (EMBOFFS EMPHASIZED THAT HOUSING PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED PROMPTLY AND DEFINITELY "IN WRITING" SINCE HAY MAY BE TRANSFERRED AND MUST LEAVE A SATISFACTORY HOUSING SITUATION FOR HIS SUCCESSOR, ASSUMING PAN AM DOES NOT CEASE LOCAL OPERATIONS COMPLETELY.) ON THE JUNE 20 NOTAM VIOLATIONS (REF B), ZANTOVSKY LAMELY OBSERVED THAT "EXCEPTIONS" FOR OTHER AIRLINES DID NOT SEEM FAIR TO PAN AM. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS POWERLESS IN THIS MATTER AND OFFERED TO

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SET UP A MEETING FOR THE E/C COUNSELOR WITH GEN. KALICKY, HEAD OF CIVIL AVIATION, SO THAT EMBASSY COULD DISCUSS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL MATTERS. AFTER NOTING THAT JUNE 20 AIRPORT CLOSURE HAD COST PAN AM MONEY, WE AGREED TO SEE KALICKY. ZANTOVSKY DID NOT COMMENT ON CANCELLATION OF PRAGUE AIRPORT PILOT TRAINING PHOTOS AND WE SAW NO ADVANTAGE IN PRESSING HIM ON THIS .

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5. COMMENT: IN SHORT, ZANTOVSKY GAVE US SOME SYMPATHY BUT NO REAL SATISFACTION ON THESE PROBLEMS, ALL OF WHICH HE CLAIMED ARE BEYOND HIS CAPACITY TO RESOLVE. WE FEEL THAT RECIPROCITY IS THE ONLY

BASIS UPON WHICH WE CAN HOPE TO IMPROVE GOC TREATMENT OF PAN AM AND THUS BELIEVE THAT CAB DENIAL OF SOME OR ALL OF CSA'S EXTRA SECTION REQUESTS MIGHT PRODUCE A MORE POSITIVE GOC ATTITUDE. THIS COULD CONCEIVABLE RESULT IN SOLUTION OF HOUSING PROBLEM ACCEPTABLE

TO PAN AM AND PERHAPS MORE COOPERATION ON AIRPORT PHOTO PROJECT. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT NO REAL SATISFACTION ON NOTAM VIOLATION, EVEN THOUGH PAN AM MAY PRESENT BILL TO GOC FOR EXTRA EXPENSE INCURRED BECAUSE OF JUNE 20 AIRPORT CLOSURE. (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT LUFTHANSA AND SWISSAIR ARE ALSO COMPLAINING TO GOC ABOUT THIS MATTER. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT EXPERTS ON ICAO AFFAIRS, WE SUSPECT GOC MAY BE GUILTY OF VIOLATING ICAO COMMITMENTS IN ISSUING NOTAM CLOSING AIRSPACE AND AIRPORT TO CIVIL AIR SERVICE AND THEN ALLOWING CSA AND AEROFLOT TO CARRY OUT SCHEDULED ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.) THE MOST WE CAN EXPECT FROM ANY MEETING WITH KALICKY, IF IT TAKES PLACE, WOULD BE SOOTHING WORDS OR LEGALISMS. BY INFLICTING SOME PAIN ON CSA, WE MIGHT BE IN A STRONGER POSITION TO FORESTALL FUTURE PROBLEMS FOR PAN AM BY DEMONSTRATING OUR INSISTENCE
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UPON RECIPROCITY.

6. IN LONGER TERM, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SITUATION YET WARRANTS DRASTIC ACTION THAT WOULD FORECLOSE OUR OPTION TO RENEW OR RENEGOTIATE ATA. EVEN IF PAN AM PULLS OUT OF PRAGUE, WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUATION OF CIVAIR AGREEMENT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE SUGGEST THAT SITUATION BE RE-EVALUATED IN TWO MONTHS OR SO TO SEE WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK TO RETAIN AN AGREEMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER DEPARTMENT REQUIRES FURTHER DETAILS ON JUNE 20 AIRPORT CLOSURE. PAN AM REP HAY HAS GIVEN US CONSIDERABLE DOCUMENTATION, AND IF DEPT. FEELS MATTER WARRANTS DISCUSSION IN ICAO CONTEXT, WE WILL PROVIDE MORE BACKGROUND.

8. AT REQUEST OF HAY, EMBASSY IS POUCHING COPIES OF REFS B,
C, D AND E TO FAA BRUSSELS FOR INFORMATION.
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Message Attributes

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